

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3118

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: CANDIDACIES FOR PRESIDENT OF 30TH UNGA

1. ON EVE OF MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS GROUP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24, COMPETING CANDIDACIES FOR WEO NOMINATION UNRESOLVED. THORN OF LUXEMBOURG REMAINS FRONT RUNNER. AUSTRALIANS HAVE CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE TURKS AND SPANIARDS TO JOIN THEM IN RENOUNCING CANDIDACIES IN FAVOR OF THORN AT JUNE 24 MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND TURKS HAVE AGREED BUT THAT SPANIARDS ARE UNWILLING TO STAND DOWN. OUR LATEST WORD IS THAT DESPITE FAILURE TO GET SPANISH AGREEMENT, AUSTRALIANS WILL ANNOUNCE TOMORROW WITHDRAWAL OF WILLESSEE IN FAVOR OF THORN.

2. LATE JUNE 23 EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO PERSUADE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR (CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF WEO GROUP) TO BRING PRESSURE ON SPANISH AMBASSADOR. HE WOULD THREATEN TO PUT MATTER TO VOTE TOMORROW AND WOULD STRONGLY HINT THAT SPANISH LIKELY TO BE HUMILIATED BY OUTCOME. OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE IS OF COURSE TO OBLIGE SPANISH MISSION TO SEEK URGENT NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM MADRID.
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